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CORRESPONDENCE
ON
CONFEDERATION
WITH
DOMINION OF CANADA.
BY
CHAS. LEVY.

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CORRESPONDENCE
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KINGSTON, 12TH MARCH, 1885.

DEAR SIR,

It being now conclusive that any Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America is utterly hopeless, and equally clear that Beet Sugar can be, and will continue to be produced at a price that must exclude British West India Sugar from every market of the World, it follows that cane cultivation in this Island must rapidly cease, and that unless some immediate relief can be applied, the ruin of all engaged in this Industry will be assured, whilst collaterally many other Public Interests will suffer in equivalent degree.

In this deplorable and critical position, I trust you will share in the reasonable and increasing conviction that the time has arrived when all the circumstances may be calmly and deliberately considered: and that it is desirable, without further delay, to ascertain whether any, and what arrangements can be made with the Dominion Government of Canada, (where the duty on Sugar is about eight pounds per ton,) for the free admission of all Jamaica Produce into their markets, either by Political Union or Commercial Convention, based on a letter addressed by the Premier, Sir John McDonald, on the 25th September last, to the Honorable Michael Solomon, to which I beg to refer you.

The only means of obtaining the necessary information on which an accurate judgment can be formed, is by the appointment of a limited Commission, to be nominated by the Council of this Island, authorized to proceed to Canada and communicate with the Dominion Government on this important subject, and as it would be impracticable to invite a public meeting from all parts of the Colony on this vital question, I further hope that a perusal of the annexed Correspondence will induce you to exercise your influence on the Elected Members of the Council for your Parish, soliciting the nomination of such a Delegation as I have suggested. This would commit neither the Government nor the people of this Colony to any Policy, whilst the outcome will I firmly believe be of great and lasting benefit to both Communities, and in any case will finally settle existing uncertainties.

I purposely abstain from enlargement, since any opinions at this stage would be merely hypothetical, and might be misleading.

I think the wiser course is to confine myself to the simple appeal I now make to your co-operation, and leave future issues to your good judgment, when it will have been assisted by the possession of facts.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

CHAS. LEVY.

Extract of Letter from Sir JOHN McDONALD to Hon. MICHAEL SOLOMON.

OTTAWA, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1884.

Since we had the pleasure of seeing you here, the subject of your unofficial mission has been discussed in Council. We are of opinion that the question of a political union is one surrounded with difficulties, which may however prove not to be so insuperable. Our information is exceedingly limited, and we are therefore not in a position to express any decided opinion on the subject. If Her Majesty's Government give their consent, the Government of Canada will be quite ready to enter upon the consideration of the two important questions; first, of a political union, and failing that, of a commercial arrangement. The discussion of the subject can be had either by letter or with a delegation from your government. Meanwhile, we shall be very much obliged if you will send us such publications relating to Jamaica, in the way of Blue Books, &c., as are available.

We should also like to get copies of your tariff, and of your customs and excise laws.

6, LIME STREET SQUARE,

LONDON, 24TH OCTOBER, 1884.

To the Editor of the Chronicle.

SIR,

My attention has been called to certain extracts from your editorials, and to the opinions of various Halifax merchants, which have appeared in your column and have been reproduced in the *Gleaner* newspaper of Kingston, Jamaica, on the subject of the proposed incorporation of that island into the Canadian Dominion. These opinions evidently were the result of hasty expression, without due reflection or acquaintance with the colony, save of exceptional and limited character, and believing that they were never intended for publication, I abstain from criticism, my motive being rather to supply such facts and statements as will place at the command of all interested in the question the means of forming more reliable judgment. Probably this course should have recommended itself at the outset to its promoters, and would have prevented the wild speculation and errors which the want of accurate information has produced. The project was propounded by a gentleman, I believe in some respects officially connected and resident in Canada, in a series of letters addressed to a member of the Council of Jamaica, and was strictly confined to that colony. There never has existed any intention of applying the measure generally to all West India Islands. To such a proposition the particulars adduced herein afford ample refutation, and at the same time offer adequate reason why its operation should be restricted in the interest of the Dominion, and why it could not otherwise be acceptable to the people of Jamaica.

It is perhaps desirable to commence by giving the following table of those resources of the principal West India dependencies upon which a proper consideration of the subject rests:

	Census 1881 Popula- tion.	Imports.	Exports.	Import Duties.	Average Sugar, 5 years, 1882 inclusive.
Demerara	252,186 (of whom 90,000 are (Coolies.)	£2,099,633	£3,208,533	£254,432	109,844 tons
Trinidad	153,128	2,399,794	2,452,033	196,987	33,802 do.
Barbadoes	171,860	1,162,567	1,193,205	89,681	52,217 do.
Leward Islands..	114,112			71,510	29,005 hhd.
Jamaica	580,804	1,321,962	1,549,058	257,335	29,356 do. (equal to 26,000 tons.)

Assuming the consumption of Canada at 75,000 tons it, is evident from these figures that the three larger colonies export three times as much sugar unitedly as the entire annual consumption of the Dominion, and if admitted free into her markets, the effect would be not only to sweep away the entire revenue of nearly \$2,500,000 derived from this source, but would be even more disastrous to the colonists. On the other hand, the latter have only to offer in return the consuming powers of a population, barely as large as that of Jamaica, and as they now entirely depend on imported food, there exists no prospect of augmentation in this respect, even by the total abolition of all duties, which are based on a very low scale, and only amount to about £540,000 annually, including those paid on the large imports of rice, spirits, wine, and tobacco not produced in the Dominion, and if this analysis be applied separately to each of the three colonies, the result is no less opposed to acceptance.

It has been suggested by Mr. Berkeley, Solicitor-General for the Leeward Islands, that in any contemplated arrangements for the confederation of Jamaica with Canada, those islands should be included. In a printed circular issued by him, he has set down their export of sugar last year at 40,000 hogsheads, or at least 25 per cent. more than Jamaica, and would represent about \$1,500,000 of duty. Mr. Berkeley is no doubt a better authority on this point than I am, but in the statistical abstracts compiled to the end of 1882, from which I quote, the average exports for the five preceding years, 1882 included, were 29,005 hogsheads or, about equal to Jamaica, but as their population is only 114,000 paying £71,500 import duties, the question of their inclusion must be left to the decision of those principally interested, and on which it is unnecessary here for me to express any opinions.

Governed by the census of 1881, Jamaica has now a population of about 600,000, of whom Sir Anthony Musgrave stated, in a paper read by him before the Colonial Institute in London a few years since, not more than 5 per cent. work on sugar estates, and as the exports of sugar and rum in 1883 represented £777,597, or 56 per cent. out of a total of £1,365,868, it is clear that the remaining 95 per cent. of the population, contribute less than half to the general export resources. In fact, but a small portion labor, whilst the others produce little beyond their immediate wants. To reach a population so scattered and non-industrious, import duties on food are from 100 per cent. to 400 per cent. higher on rated articles than in any other colony, with 12½ per cent. on unenumerated merchandise as compared with 4 per cent. elsewhere. It remains, therefore, evident that at the outside not more than one-third of the food consumed is imported, and that if these heavy charges were removed, in many instances 30 per cent. and 40 per cent. on first cost, consumption would be rapidly doubled. The imports in 1883 represented £1,591,960, and it is this supply with the prospective in-

crease referred to, that Canada would possess in the event of confederation, independent of which, the geographical position of Jamaica on the completion of the Isthmus canal, is no doubt destined to form the nucleus for new and important traffic.

Two gentlemen representing the West India body, with the sanction of the British Government, are now on their way to Washington to assist Mr. West, the British minister there, in negotiating for a reciprocity treaty with the American Government, leaving it optional to each colony to participate in any accomplished contract. The Colonial Office have, however, made it an indispensable condition that any revenue lost, after every new and accepted form of taxation shall have been exhausted, must be borne in each colony respectively by its sugar interest, which these negotiations seek to improve, but to any such transaction it would be impossible for Jamaica proprietors to be consenting parties. On a computation made by those principally concerned in these negotiations, a charge of from 10s. to 15s. per ton would recoup the needful deficiencies in the case of Demerara, Trinidad and Barbadoes, by reason of their large production and low duties. Anyone who will, however, take the trouble to look at the schedule of duties, appended to this letter, collected in Jamaica in 1883, on rated and *ad valorem* articles, all of which are produced in America, would find that practically about £220,000 would disappear out of a total of £255,000, for it is the evident desire of America to find new outlets for her manufactured rather than her agricultural goods, especially in those markets she at present exclusively supplies with food.

Admitting, for the sake of discussion, that about £100,000 of new taxation might be raised, it would still therefore leave about £5 a ton to be levied on sugar, which would negative any relief to that depressed industry. But another important reason against such a settlement presents itself in the fact that in the other colonies named every inhabitant is more or less identified with sugar production, which in Demerara forms 98 per cent. of the total exports, in Trinidad 70 per cent., and in Barbadoes is the sole export. The proportion in Jamaica who labor on estates, as already has been shown, is only 5 per cent. of the general public, 95 per cent. of whom as a sequence would be relieved at the expense of sugar cultivation, which in this respect would be placed in a worse position.

Opinion has been expressed that flour and other Canadian products are unsuited to a tropical climate. This conjecture is undeserving of serious consideration and calls for little anxiety. There was a time, not so long ago, when all requirements were imported from Great Britain. At the outset of America entering into competition for the supply of West India markets, her flour and meal hardened or soured on the voyage. Butter and lard became rancid, and candles melted together or bent with exposure. With care and experience all obstacles were overcome, and after a few years the struggle terminated in her undisputed and uninterrupted pos-

session. Quality invariably follows demand, and in the case of Canada obstacle, if any, is reduced to a minimum, for should change or improvement be needed, producers are spared the difficulty of finding new inventions—they have only to adopt the existing ones of their neighbors.

Few countries possess a finer or more diversified climate than Jamaica, or a richer and more fruitful soil, offering large field for enterprise and industry; but as outside the mutual treatment expressed in treaties, contracting parties take no interest in each others affairs, Jamaica with these advantages would have nothing further to gain from reciprocity with the United States of America. With federation the case assumes a totally different aspect; old links would be preserved, new ties created, and a basis of common interest established, which would lead to the introduction of a large number of practically educated men, whose presence would instil, new vigor and vitality into its social, commercial and political life, so long languishing from depletion, whilst their example would impart emulation to the numerous and able peasantry now inert for want of this incentive. A public opinion would be once more revived and a proper control exercised by an invigorated community over its present unreasonable expenditure, which under Crown Government has been doubled. In doing this vested rights would necessarily be held sacred, and at the outset, computing the annual saving at only £50, 000, this amount, with the reimposition of tonnage dues and the interest payable by Canada on differential public debt, would supply any deficiency arising out of the admission of all goods duty free, without the necessity of other new taxation of any kind.

I may here ask, what is the past history of Jamaica? The institution of slavery was at the outset foisted on the Island by British law. All the evils associated with its development, as all the disasters which have arisen since its abolition, and the sudden withdrawal of labor, have alike been placed at the doors of her unfortunate colonists, who have had to bear the consequences of a due want of prescience on the part of the mother country. The English Government and the people, absorbed in more important and domestic questions, have long ceased to regard her necessities either with wisdom or justice; the optics they turned towards her fifty years since, are the same they now employ, forgetful that a new generation has arisen between whom neither the law nor any other moral force recognizes any distinction. Their interest in her prosperity has so long weakened by its attraction to other quarters, and has so gradually diminished that they fail to appreciate how much these agencies have contributed to impair their judgment of the wants needed for her re-generation. It is because I believe this will be better attained through confederation and the sympathies awakened by closer relationship, that I advocate a movement which meets with general approval on this side, and because I have faith that,

aside from pecuniary considerations, the moral redemption of the community will be gradually but surely accomplished by the irresistible influences to which I attach so much force.

For my boldness in this course, I trust my long and large stake in the island, as well as my deep interest in its people, will be accepted by all parties as ample apology, and that you will allow it also to plead my excuse for this lengthy trespass on your patience.

I am, sir,

Your obed't serv't,

CHAS. LEVY.

Schedule of Articles and Duties collected thereon in Jamaica for the year ending 30th Sept., 1883—all of which can be supplied from the United States.

	£	175	0	0
Bacon	1,471	1	2	
Beef, wet, salted or cured	3,276	9	5	
Bread or Biscuit	5,176	15	0	
Butter	118	11	7	
Candles, Tallow	1,393	17	6	
Cheese	22,251	4	7	
Fish	42,228	1	0	
Flour, wheat	979	17	3	
Hams	1,719	15	9	
Lard	1,507	13	1	
Meal	16,460	5	6	
Oil	4,507	8	11	
Pork, wet or salted	7,375	14	8	
Soap	820	16	6	
Sugar, refined	3,119	7	6	
Tobacco, Leaf	4,459	8	10	
Do. manufactured	752	19	4	
Tongues, wet or salted	67	12	6	
Wheat	3,324	12	7	
Wood pitch pine	3,205	11	1	
Do., white pine	558	0	2	
Do., Shingle, Cypress and Wallaba	242	14	8	
Candles, wax or spermacetti	451	4	8	
Do., composition	3,588	10	11	
Matches				
	£129,293	2	10	
Unenumerated Merchandize	87,735	19	8	
	£217,029	2	6	

6, LIME STREET SQUARE, LONDON, E. C.,

15TH NOVEMBER, 1884

To the Editor of the GLEANER, Jamaica.

SIR,

Some days since I addressed a letter to the Editor of the *Hall's Jamaica Chronicle*, and as it may find its way into the columns of

Jamaica newspapers and be there discussed, I think it desirable to supplement its contents with a few further remarks, from which, beyond what was absolutely necessary, I abstained at the outset, lest they might prejudice the efforts then started for effecting a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America on behalf of the British West Indian Colonies, but in which arrangements for the reasons I have already assigned, Jamaica could not be expected to concur.

It is clear that in rejecting the proposal for Canadian Confederation little was known of its merits, and it is to be deplored that a more suspensory resolution was not adopted. I am, however, induced to my present course because I believe the telegraphic message from Lord Derby, laid before the Council on 20th October, was despatched entirely in the interest of the larger Sugar Colonies, and is based on recognised fallacies calculated to mislead Jamaica people, tending not only to engender hopes that have no reasonable foundation, but to divert their attention from the more practical and desirable path exceptionally open to them. I have hitherto endeavored to set out the indisputable benefits associated with Confederation, and it now only remains to place against them the drawbacks to any Reciprocity Treaty, and the utter hopelessness of such a convention being accepted by the American Government with the limited and contracted margins affirmed by the English Government.

Reciprocity implies two essential conditions; first the mutual enjoyment of benefits never before possessed, and next that those benefits, though differing in character, should be equal in importance and indetical in value.

Now where is the novelty, or where the advantage to accrue to the United States in ceding to them by Treaty the monopoly of certain food supplies which they have already long held and controlled by reason of natural advantages? Here at the very outset the case breaks down, but the collapse is more marked and overwhelming when the mutual considerations are weighed.

For the easier and less complicated treatment of this portion of the subject I confine myself, as hitherto, to the three larger producing Colonies. Their entire revenue from Customs department in 1882 was £541,100 but this includes the duties on spirits, very large imports of rice, and a few other articles not produced in America, and if the number to be affected by reciprocity is brought within the narrow confines presented in Lord Derby's message to the Governor of Jamaica, then the total amount of Revenue to be effaced in favor of American productions would fall considerably under £200,000, the rates of duties in those dependencies being largely under those assessed in Jamaica.

Against this what is the United States expected to offer in return:—

	Tons Sugar.	Phns. Molasses.	Phns. Rum.
In 1882 Demerara produced - -	139,187	18,348	29,220
Trinidad " - -	55,326	20,678	1,500
Barbadoes " - -	53,735	36,305	151
Total -	248,248	75,331	30,871

Leaving out Molasses and Rum, and dealing only with Sugar, on which the duty is about £8 a ton, it would represent in round figures but little short of £2,000,000 sterling, so that simply for a privilege by Treaty, already existing by force of natural causes the United States are expected to give the British W. I. Colonies free entry into their markets for all their sugar productions, which, from the three largest alone would entail a loss of Revenue to the States of about £2,000,000 sterling, and this is what the British Government ask the Colonists to believe may be realized.

For their agricultural products, the United States seek no favored markets; it is for their manufactures that they are anxious to find outlets. Their powers of production are prodigions, their resources unbounded, and already though scarcely touched outstrip the demands of their large population. But there is another aspect which calls for equal consideration. All parties recognise the certainty that Sugar will soon be placed on the Free List. To uphold a native production of less than 200,000 hhds. American consumers now pay a duty of over £7,000,000 annually. Out of this large sum provision can easily be made to satisfy the claims of Southern Planters; the residue is but an addition to an already large surplus of Revenue not wanted, and misused. Profiting by the mistake of England in applying to the entire body a relief needed but by one member, sugar alone will be liberated, and form the bridge over which American manufactures will find their way into new markets. It has already been so utilized in basing Trade Treaties with the Sandwich Islands and Mexico; it will be similarly employed in Conventions with Spain—and with all who have equivalent advantages to offer in return. By this means with one blow two strokes will be accomplished. The effect will be to cheapen the raw material to their consumers, but to gradually reduce to producers those benefits, the want of which is severely felt in European markets; and this is the contingency that cane growers will have to face.

If the matter were left to those principally interested, it is open to belief that some solution might be found for affording, by this means, temporary relief to the depressed British W. I. sugar industry, but to any such remedy the jealousy and cupidity of England offers insurmountable barriers. Already in response to the manufacturing interest, Government is pledged that no differential du-

ties shall be retained against English manufacturers in favor of those of the United States, and this is the Death Warrant alike to Reciprocity and Colonists. The morality of this policy cannot be justified. If cane cultivation expires as it must, in failing to find a remunerative market, then England loses all the advantages of the past trade that must die with it; where then the virtue of refusing to Colonists the means of existence, by transferring to others the advantages that under any circumstances England must lose. The Board of Trade have declared the interest of the British consumer opposed to the interest of the Colonial Producer, they refuse to countervail Bounty-fed produce which is the canker worm of Tree Trade, and they now impose insuperable difficulties to the realization of the only hope left to her unfortunate Colonists. Jamaica enjoys exceptional advantages, and it remains to be seen whether those now at the helm of her affairs will lead her safety into the only Harbor of Refuge left open.

I am etc.,
CHAS. LEVY.

6, LIME STREET SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.,
29TH NOVEMBER, 1884.

To the Editor of the Chronicle, Halifax.

SIR,

As my motive in addressing you on the 24th Oct. last was clearly defined at the outset, it is greatly to be deplored that in discussing a project so replete with mutual advantages to both communities, a larger consideration has not been given to mutual sensibilities, and if as you have suggested my advocacy has been limited to the interests of Jamaica, I have tendered what I believe to be unanswerable reasons in favour of such course, which by no means infers a want of sympathy for the difficulties of the other British West India Colonies. On the other hand, if I have not from a Canadian stand-point, dwelt with equal force on the great benefits which would fall to the Dominion from this union, it was because those benefits were to my mind so obvious, that any attempt on my part to impress them, might have been regarded as interested, or have been resisted as an unwarranted suspicion of the reasonable discernment of her people.

Invited, however, by your comments in your editorial of the 7th inst., I think I may justly remark that, governed by this hesitation, I did in the fourth paragraph of my last letter, though without any expression of personal opinion, venture to refer in a brief but comprehensive form to the undoubted gains that would accumulate to the Dominion from a realization of the proposed confederation. Against the free entry of sugar, involving a loss of Dominion Revenue of about £200,000 annually, I set down the free entry into Jamaica of all Dominion products, which would deprive the Colon-

ist of at least as large an amount of customs resources, but as the surrender of exceptionally heavy duties on food would naturally tend rapidly to double consumption amongst her large population, the prospective tendencies would still more manifestly be in favor of Canada.

You express surprise that Jamaica has not hitherto taken more of her wants from Canada, but this is a feature which exclusively points to an apparent lack of enterprise on the part of Canada. The Western portions of the United States, before they were connected by Railway and Canal with the sea-board, murmured at a similar condition of things. The real cause of this exclusion from the West India trade is, that heretofore Canadian products were unable to reach the ocean during so many months of the year as to practically interrupt the needful continuity of supply, but as Halifax is now permanently accessible to all the Provinces, their products will share the same facilities of transit that fish has hitherto enjoyed, and it now remains for Canadians either with or without annexation to compete for the business. Her population cannot surely be insensible to those material and commercial instincts which operate in other communities. England, although possessing extensive dependencies which aid to absorb her surplus manufactures, is ever seeking new and additional outlets. For forty years she has preached the doctrine of Free Trade, with no other result than to excite the apprehensions of her contemporaries, who, beneath the seductive banner of philanthropy, detect the treacherous flag of National selfishness, which would overwhelm every market in the world, and crush in others the very germs of national enterprise and reliance, which can only be nourished under the fostering shield of protection. France in her Algerian and Tunisian acquisitions, her Madagascar and Eastern enterprises; Germany in her South African policy and Colonial association are evidences of alertness. The United States, in the possession of vast regions which already tax administration, have no greed for further territory, but they want to find in foreign markets consumers for the excess of their unbounded manufacturing resources, which they endeavor to provide by means of Reciprocity Treaties. With these facts before us, it must therefore be admitted, that Canada would attain no mean success in securing the monopoly of supply to a population numbering 600,000, whose annual imports already amount to £1,500,000, and would quickly augement on the basis I have set out. In connection with this portion of the subject, it is however a very grave mistake to assert that Nova Scotia has been without a competitor in the fish trade with Colonial markets. None better than Canadians know the difficulties and struggles that have existed between themselves and Americans on the fishery question. For some time past by steam conveyance large quantities of all descriptions of fish have been shipped from New York to Jamaica, with an increasing inclination which threatens the extinction of old sources

of supply. I have not had an opportunity of reading the letter of your correspondent, who points out that in the event of annexation United States fish would, under the Washington Treaty, enter free into Jamaica markets, nor am I acquainted with the terms of the Treaty itself; but such a conclusion is evidently incorrect, for at the date of its signature Jamaica was not a portion of the Dominion. In this we have a clear guide in the most favored nation Treaty between the United Kingdom and United States, in which the West India Colonies having by inadvertence been omitted, the latter cannot claim entrance into American markets under this convention, but are seeking these facilities under a new one. In any case, however, it is erroneous to affirm that annexation would not extend the market for this article. The removal of a duty representing 25 per cent on first cost would ensure that result.

Beyond expressing my dissent from the misconceptions on which they are based, and my great regret for the spirit in which they are expressed, it is impossible for me in the limited time at my command to deal as fully as I would desire with your other remarks. Assertion is not argument, and whatever the result of the present exchange of opinions, I am assured a general desire prevails that no irritation should intrude on the satisfactory relations that have hitherto existed between those who are part and parcel of the same people and owe allegiance to the same throne. Fairly treated, as the masses of other countries, the people of Jamaica offer favorable contrast. A more orderly and law abiding people are not to be found, and if they do not labor as they might it is because of the bounties of nature which surround them, and the want of those incentives which I believe annexation would impart.

Speaking with all respect to the reasonable aspirations of my fellow-colonists, I think you over-rate their legal claim to representation in the Canadian Parliament, or if legal their actual desires. I believe two or three Representatives at the outset would satisfy their wishes, and that whoever they may select, would do anything but discredit to any deliberative body with which they may be associated. A community raising without difficulty a revenue of about £600,000 cannot be said to be in difficulties. The sudden collapse in the sugar industry has extended to other and larger centres, and there is no evidence to prove, nor is it reasonable to assert, that in the case of Jamaica it is ascribable either to an idle population, lack of business shrewdness, or improvidence.

In seeking annexation, it is not proposed to obtain help that will not be more than abundantly requited, and so far from being a burden to the Dominion, the projected movement would, I am persuaded, entail mutual and lasting cause for satisfaction.

If I have succeeded in convincing you that the scheme is neither absurd nor unreasonable, and if the people of both communities can be induced to enter, at least, into a dispassionate consideration of

its merits, I will have been amply repaid for my efforts towards that end. Difficulties there may be, but in view of the great interests involved, it would be a reproach to their common intelligence and forbearance if means were not devised to surmount them.

I am,

CHAS. LEVY.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA,

24TH JANUARY, 1885.

TO SPENCER JONES, Esq.,
OTTAWA.

MY DEAR SIR,

Our common interest in the proposed Confederation of this Island with the Canadian Dominion will I venture to hope, be sufficient apology for my troubling you with this communication, and obviate the necessity of further introduction.

I have not been acquainted with the contents of your previous correspondence with Mr. Solomon, but he has kindly forwarded to me for perusal, your letters of the 22nd and 26th ulto. and 7th inst., and it is in consequence of my belief that certain conclusions in these documents, if upheld in Canada, will cause fatal opposition in this Colony that I am induced to address you.

In your remarks of 26th, Decr. you refer only to the admission of Jamaica, but Mr. J. J. Stewart appears to contemplate the annexation of the whole of the British West Indies, the effect of which if practicable, which it is not, would be to throw nearly 300,000 Tons of Sugar on the Canadian markets, and would be alike disastrous to the Dominion Revenue and the cane producer.

The letter of a Sugar Merchant, in the New York *Herald* of 22nd Decr. last, clearly upholds the views I have long since expressed. Reciprocity will bring the cane growers no relief. Sugar in America is bound to go on the free list, and recognizing this fact, Americans may accept any good, however small, in exchange for what they are willing to give up for nothing, but, whilst the position of our largest sister colonies is as disastrous as I have described (and I enclose copy of extract from a memorandum of negotiations, by Mr. Lubbock, in Nov. last from Washington to Mr. Quintin Hogg, Deputy Chairman of the West Indian Committee in London, in proofs of this fact.) Jamaica exceptionally has considerable interest in other Products besides Sugar, and although all more or less depend on this great staple, the connexion is in some instances so remotely collateral that it becomes difficult to educate people here to the needful point of appreciation; they require therefore, all the more considerate handling by reason of their diversified interests, and assumed through mistaken independence, and unless they could be shown that they gain at least as much as they part with, and above all, that the arrangement is with Jamaica alone, there is little hope of their being favourably influenced.

To whatever alternative the three large Colonies may therefore be driven by their necessities and large productions, and the Leeward Islands by similar reasons, (the smallness of their population considered) Jamaica has no such need. The latter possessing a population nearly equal to all the other Islands combined, now produces but 26,000 Tons of sugar, and any gain to producers by its introduction free into Canada would be more than repaid to the latter by the prospective benefits to accrue. Indeed, apart from this question and its visible and mutual advantages, the latent ones are so varied and important, that they should insure the warm support by every intelligent mind.

I perceive that Mr. Berkely intends visiting Ottawa with the obvious object of forming an independent Convention, or of tacking on the Leeward Islands to any arrangement made with the Government of Jamaica. Of course it would be quite open to the Canadian people to annex the Colonies represented by Mr. Berkeley, but in such event any treaty with Jamaica would fall through, and have to be abandoned, but I cannot believe that with a population of only 114,000, and a total Customs Revenue of £71,500, including many articles which cannot be supplied by Canada, the admission of these Islands, either with or without Jamaica, is a reasonable possibility.

The question of Reciprocity, according to Mr. Stewart's statement is laughed at, and properly so, since the British Government, instigated by the manufacturing interests of the United Kingdom, would never sanction any differential duties in favor of the Dominion unless shared by the British manufacturer, and we have already in evidence their declared statement, in reply to a question in the House of Commons (during I think, the month of November, when American Reciprocity was first mooted.) The matter, however, assumes a very different aspect with annexation.

As the position of the British West Indian producers is very critical, and there is absolutely nothing to gain from Reciprocity with America, it is clear the former will not now be disposed to make any important sacrifice of Revenue, to which, under different circumstances they would have willingly assented for the advantage of the sugar industry. It follows, therefore, that Canada has little to fear from the concessions that will now be made, and although the duty on Fish Stuffs will not be touched, Nova Scotia will inevitably lose her export trade in this article, especially with Jamaica in the absence of Confederation; indeed as Halifax would be the chief shipping port during a large portion of the year, that Province has much to gain from the union.

In the course of my correspondence with Sir Charles Tupper whilst the Premier was in London, I explained in identical terms with your suggestion, the reason of the rejection of Mr. Solomon's motion, which was fully anticipated. The latter gentleman's communications, as mine, with the Dominion Officials were purely the re-

sult of courtesy, and for obvious reasons no good would arise from a continuance of these non-privileged communications, personally or otherwise, conducted by any individual whatever. The people of Canada, and still more the people of Jamaica, want to ascertain the utmost scope and full effect of the contemplated arrangements, and the only means of arriving at this information is through a duly authorized Deputation, to be appointed by the Government of this Colony, to visit Canada, ascertain the working of Confederation generally in the Provinces, and then negotiate Officially with the Dominion Government.

All efforts here must now, therefore, be directed to bring the needful pressure to bear on our Council for this end. When the results are generally known, both communities will be able to decide and I trust favourably on the merits and benefits of the proposition.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Faithfully yours.

CHARLES LEVY.

Extract Referred to on Page 15.

At all the discussions in which Mr. Lubbock took part at the Colonial Office, respecting the proposed treaty with the United States, it was assumed that the admission of sugar from the British West Indies duty free into the United States would be unaccompanied by the admission of other sugar duty free, and the advantage of such an arrangement to the British West Indies was so obvious, and the gain to the Sugar Industry was so great, that considerable modifications of the existing tariffs and the imposition of somewhat heavy direct taxation upon the Sugar Industry was not thought too great a price to pay for the anticipated boon.

The Spanish Treaty has completely altered the state of affairs, and we now find ourselves in this position, that while such a Treaty as was proposed will not give us any direct advantages, the absence of such a Treaty will make the position of the Sugar Industry ten fold worse than it was before.

Whilst therefore the necessity for such a Treaty is obvious, it is no longer a Treaty which will give the West India Sugar Industry an important advantage over the Sugar Industries of other Countries, but one which will merely remove a crushing disadvantage the British West Indies would otherwise be under as compared with Cuba and Porto Rico.

Shut out from English markets by Foreign bounties, and with such a disadvantage in the American Market as is created by the Spanish Treaty, the position of the Sugar Industry in the British West Indies would not only be critical but well nigh hopeless, nor would a reduction of their duties by one-half on West Indian Sugar by the United States be of the slightest use.

SAINT ANN'S BAY,

25 FEBRUARY 1885.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have read with very much interest your well-written letters on the subject of Confederation with Canada, and it is surprising to me so little interest is evinced by those who would largely benefit by the adoption of your suggestions. Now that the Convention with the United States will not be accepted by the British Cabinet, if even the United States Senate would ratify it, I think it is necessary a fresh effort should be made to call forth public support. Our sugar industry is paralyzed, and why? Because it is exposed to an unfair competition with bounty-fed Beet. On the prosperity or failure of the sugar industry every other interest hinges—and in my opinion the way to lead to prosperity is to find a market for our products where they will be admitted free. True, we should have also to receive products of that country free also. Canada would I believe if the subject was properly brought before her people, willingly accept us; and I believe if the matter was fully explained here, our people would be glad to join. Then, as Mr. Spencer Jones in his letter published in the *Trelawny* shews, we should get such a contribution from the Dominion as would make good the Revenue we should lose by the admission of Canadian products free of duty. There is a cry for cheap food; our people would get it—there is a cry for a favourable market for our sugar, &c., Canada affords this, and I am sure every interest from the smallest peasant proprietor to the largest landholder would be benefited. I sincerely hope you will persevere in calling attention to this important matter, Jamaicans would in the end thank you for your efforts on their behalf. I do so for what you have already done and in advance for what you will do.

I remain, my dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL SOLOMON.

CHAS. LEVY, Esq.
